

# WEEKLY GAME PLAN

## A Quiet Courage

**Read John 17:14 NIV, John 18:36 NIV, Hebrews 13:14 NLT, Romans 8:23 NIV**

**Context:** As believers, this earth is not our final home. God has adopted us into His family and one day He will call us home to be with Him for eternity. The more Christ-like we become, the more friction we will experience from this world. The things of this world will fight against what God wants for us and from us. We are to show God's love to the people around us without taking on the culture of this world. We can do this most effectively by following Christ's example of love.

**Reflection Question:** How can you show God's love to those around you this week while still showing the world that while you are in the world, you are not of the world? What does it look like to fight against the darkness all around us and still have a soft heart for the lost?

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**Read John 1:4-5 NIV, Matthew 5:14 NIV, Acts 2:42-43 ESV**

**Context:** God has placed each one of His children in this world to be the light of the world. The enemy wants people to stay lost in the darkness. It's our responsibility to show people who God is and what Jesus did for them. We can be a beacon of hope to people who do not see a way out of their circumstances or situations. We can show them what God has done for us and how Jesus has transformed our hearts and minds. We can make sure that each of the people in our circle of influence know that they can find community with us.

**Reflection Question:** Who do you know who needs to be told that they matter, that God sees them? How does your life reflect what Jesus has done for you? How are you a light in your neighborhood, your workplace, school, to your friends and family?

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**Read Matthew 1:18-24 NIV**

**Context:** Joseph was a compassionate and [righteous man](#). Before the angel ever came to him, he found out that Mary was pregnant. He had the *right* to publicly humiliate her. He had the *right* to have her stoned. He had the *right* to disgrace her family by association. He didn't take advantage of any of his rights. **But** he didn't want to expose her to public disgrace. He cared for her enough to save her from the

shame of what it *appeared* she had done wrong. When the angel came to him and told him to still take Mary as his wife, this must have been a hard word to hear. But he was willing to listen and do what the Lord had commanded him. Joseph had to forgo all of his societal rights in order to be obedient to God. Remember to read this from the lens of someone who did not know the Christmas story and had not heard a new word from God for 400 years.

**Reflection Question:** What do you realistically think you would have done had you been in Joseph's situation? What would have helped you to listen and obey the angel of the Lord? Why do you think that Joseph was willing to risk everything he knew in order to be obedient?

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### **Read Matthew 2:11-14 NIV, Matthew 2:19-21**

**Context:** Joseph is again given instructions by an angel in a dream about what he needs to do. Joseph did not waste any time. He took Mary and Jesus in the middle of the night and left for Egypt. Where his people had once fled *from* Egypt, now Joseph was fleeing *to* Egypt. And later in the chapter Joseph is told to return to Israel. Joseph had to have been afraid. An angel told him that the king was trying to kill his son. Without Joseph's obedience, in spite of fear, the story of Jesus would have been much different. God uses the obedience of His children to accomplish His will in this world.

**Reflection Question:** What stops you from obeying God immediately when you know He's telling you to do something, or not do something? How can you obey, in spite of fear, what God is telling you to do this week? How are you going to show those around you that you trust God to take care of you when it looks like there is no way forward?

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### **Read Romans 8:24-25 NIV, Hebrews 11:32-40 NIV**

**Context:** Many times in this life the faith to be obedient will not make sense to the world around us. Hope for a promised future and faith that God will see us through to the end is the only thing that makes sense to us. Hebrews 11 is often referred to as the Hall of Faith. Many of the people listed did not live to see God's promise to them fulfilled fully, but they still obeyed. They still believed. And because of this, it was credited to them as righteousness. We have the encouragement of their stories. We have hope because they had the courage to obey in the face of fear and doubt.

**Reflection Question:** Who is your story going to encourage because you had the courage to accept God's invitation to trust in Him and to obey Him? How has God proven Himself faithful in the past that will help you to trust Him in the future? What examples in scripture give you hope that God will bless your obedience?

End in prayer. Ask God to reveal areas to you where you are fearful He won't take care of you. Ask Him to help your unbelief, Mark 9:23-24 NIV